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articles that appeared in the *Texas Historical Quarterly* and its successor, the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, most of the work printed in English on the missions is of little historical value. We hope the professor may consider the proposition and earn the lasting gratitude of posterity.

ZEPHYRIN ENGELHARDT.

American Presidents—Their Individualities and Their Contributions to American Progress. By Thomas Francis Moran, Ph.D. New York: T. Y. Crowell Company. Pp. 148.

The divisions of this little volume, Washington to Jackson, Jackson to Lincoln, and Lincoln to Wilson, give to the reader a hint of the author's principles. In the first section we find the statesmen Presidents, those chief executives whose public services singled them out for the suffrages of their fellow-citizens. In this group we have gradations in efficiency from Washington, the greatest, to Monroe, the least, though measured by the standard of the later times a not inconsiderable official. From Jackson, chosen for considerations other than a knowledge of national or of international affairs, there is an evident deterioration. Lincoln the first of the third division, and, perhaps, the greatest among them, was nominated because of his conservative opinions on the subject of slavery, while his successors, three of them not intended for the first office, appear to have been chosen in part for their availability and talents.

In his sketch of John Adams the author mentions "the X. Y. Z. Affair" as the "principal event" of the second President's administration. It was, indeed, the principal diplomatic event, but in its momentous importance the passage of the Alien and Sedition Laws far transcended the mission of Marshall, Gerry, and Pinckney. This legislation suggests the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, the Hartford Convention, Nullification, and Secession. In a word, it locates the landmarks of much of the history of our Republic between 1798 and 1860.

In his account of the next two terms Dr. Moran states that Jefferson and Hamilton represented "opposite poles of political thought, always opposing and never pulling in the same direction." This is almost the literal truth, but there was a memorable

dinner, and thereafter, for the moment, they worked together for the assumption by the Federal Government of the Revolutionary debts of the States. Jefferson, it is true, subsequently regretted his share in that transaction.

The author gives the usual estimate of Madison, and it is, perhaps, ungracious to mar the outline of his perfect picture. But in reflecting on the Father of the Constitution one who has read widely in American history might call up the spectre of the Pinckney draft, a document too long, we are informed, to have been included in the Journal of the Constitutional Convention, the suspicious circumstances attending Madison's nomination in 1812 or that statesman's unwarranted attack on the character of a certain New England contemporary. But when due allowance has been made for these evidences of human fallibility, Madison's achievements were sufficient for fame.

In paying a deserved tribute to the Adams family, Professor Moran concludes with this comment, "and the greatest of this family was John Quincy Adams." If one is thinking of only the Adamses in public life, there are few who will question this judgment. It is generally conceded that he surpassed his father, John Adams, as well as his son, Charles Francis Adams. But there was another Adams, a grandson, not actively engaged in the hurly-burly of politics, yet an interested spectator of the happenings in that arena. Nothing, in our opinion, in the writings of Samuel Adams, a cousin of the second President, in the writings of John Adams or in the Memoirs of John Quincy Adams approaches in excellence the autobiographical work entitled *The Education of Henry Adams*. If this may be regarded as a *tour de force*, there is also *Mont-Saint Michel and Chartres*, a work of interest to multitudes besides architects. We say nothing of the eight splendid volumes in which Henry Adams writes the history of the United States from 1801 to 1817. Many of his contemporaries have shown a practical appreciation of that great work by silently adopting its conclusions.

How Henry Adams contrived to escape the keen eyes of men who possessed the power of appointment to high office is neither easy to understand nor creditable to the intelligence and patriotism of a rather long line of Presidents. Nor is it to be explained by the well known antagonism between the Adams family and

State Street. Whatever the explanation, Henry Adams, one of the ablest Americans of the past fifty years, succeeded almost completely in effacing himself from the political landscape.

The reviewer has carefully examined Dr. Moran's book and is glad to testify to the justness of its conclusions, to its value as a summary of the two major themes which the author has undertaken to treat, and to its exceedingly attractive form. Professor Moran writes interestingly, and the entertainment of the reader is a perfectly legitimate, though not the chief object of an author. So easy is it to ascertain his meaning that without effort one finds one's self at the end of his volume, regretting that he did not prepare a narrative somewhat more ample. Like other books by Professor Moran this is marked by evidences of excellent scholarship.

Life and Letters of Thomas Hodgkin, By Louise Creighton.
London, New York, Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras: Longmans
Green & Co., 1917. Pp. 445. Price, \$4.50 net.

This work is not, as is sufficiently indicated by its title, a commentary on the writings of Thomas Hodgkin, but a biographical sketch confirmed by countless excerpts from his tireless epistolary correspondence. Voluminous and vast, the Miltonic phrase, is perhaps the only description in our language which adequately suggests the extent of his compositions. But the reviewer disclaims any thought of hinting at a connection between the pious historian and the portress of the inferno. We have never read the whole of *Italy and Her Invaders*, the masterpiece of Hodgkin, and the work that engaged so many of the best years of his busy life. But its merits one is willing to accept on the concurrent testimony of eminent historians and the public approval of universities undoubtedly great. Of Hodgkin's writings the reviewer has hitherto fully read only the first volume of a *Political History of England* published by Messrs. Longmans, Green, and Company. In its pages he discovered nothing whatever that was new. In fact, that performance is an excellent illustration of mediocrity in historical writing. This impression was all but effaced when Mrs. Creighton's volume came up for examination. It is to be regretted that she did not cast her